

Exercise #1

Using MedlinePlus to Answer Health Questions

In this exercise you will explore and become comfortable with using the MedlinePlus dictionary and encyclopedia. You will also become familiar with the Health Topics section.

Instructions: Working with a partner:

- Answer the questions in section A
- Answer the questions in section B **OR** C
- Use the MedlinePlus resources noted in each section
- You may substitute a different disease in question C

A. A friend of yours has a child with osteogenesis imperfecta. Use the MedlinePlus encyclopedia and dictionary to answer these questions:

1. What is osteogenesis imperfecta?
2. What are the symptoms of osteogenesis imperfecta?
3. What is the treatment for osteogenesis imperfecta?

B. There has been talk in the news of bird flu. Use the Health Topics section of MedlinePlus to answer these questions:

1. What does the CDC say about how H1N5 influenza is spread among birds?
2. Is it safe to eat poultry?
3. What recommendations does the Mayo Foundation make about precautions that can be taken to prevent avian flu?

C. My brother has been diagnosed with Lyme Disease. He is 51 years old. Answer the following questions using the MedlinePlus dictionary, encyclopedia and/or the Health Topics section.

1. What is Lyme Disease? How is it diagnosed?
2. What are the symptoms, treatment, expected outcome (prognosis) and complications?
3. Is he eligible for any clinical trials? Where?
4. What is a clinical trial, anyway?
5. Is there an interactive tutorial on Lyme Disease?